

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

**October 13, 2006**

## **PITTSBURGH WOMAN INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY**

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on October 5, 2006, **MARY E. TRIPP, a/k/a Mary E. Bearden**, age 53, of Pittsburgh, Illinois, was named in a three count Indictment returned by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois.

Count 1 charges that on July 19, 2005, **MARY E. TRIPP, a/k/a Mary E. Bearden**, did wilfully and knowingly embezzle, steal, purloin, and convert to her own use money of the United States, to-wit: a Veterans Affairs check to which she was not entitled in the amount of \$567, in violation of federal law.

Count 2 charges that on August 15, 2005, **MARY E. TRIPP, a/k/a Mary E. Bearden**, did wilfully and knowingly embezzle, steal, purloin, and convert to her own use money of the United States, to-wit: a Veterans Affairs check to which she was not entitled in the amount of \$567, in violation of federal law.

Count 3 charges that on September 12, 2005, **MARY E. TRIPP, a/k/a Mary E. Bearden**, did wilfully and knowingly embezzle, steal, purloin, and convert to her own use money of the United States, to-wit: a Veterans Affairs check to which she was not entitled in the amount of \$567, in violation of federal law.

With respect to each Count, TRIPP faces a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of up to 3 years.

*An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.*

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.